

FAMILY LAW - Resources

GENERAL LEGAL INFORMATION

- **Travis County Law Library Self-Help Center** <http://www.traviscountylawlibrary.org> 512.854.8677. Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th Street, Austin. Law library services, legal resources and information, free self-help forms for divorce and other family law matters. Staff attorneys are available to assist parties with UNCONTESTED family cases in Travis County only. *Uncontested* means that the parties are in agreement. Staff attorneys do not individually represent either side. All library services are free.
- **First Call for Help • 211** Call 2-1-1 for free information and referrals to health and human service agencies, nonprofit organizations and other services.
- **Texas Law Help** www.texaslawhelp.org One-stop resource for free legal information in multiple languages. Topics include housing, public benefits, family, veterans, wills and probate and many others. Free self-help legal forms are available for download, with instructions in English and Spanish.
- **Telephone Access to Justice** 512.374.2777 or 888.988.9996. A service of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) www.trla.org. Callers are screened for eligibility for free legal services in civil legal matters, including family, consumer, housing, and public benefits. No criminal matters.
- **Texas Legal Services Center** - www.tlsc.org – 800.622.2520. Administers a variety of legal service programs for eligible individuals. Lawyer-staffed legal line primarily for Texans who have a disability or are over 60 years of age. Most services available at no cost to eligible applicants.
- **MATCH Program** 512.472.8303 or 866.303.8303 (ask for "MATCH" program). Reduced-fee private attorneys for those who meet income eligibility guidelines. Limited to family law, guardianship, and simple wills. Consultation is \$20 for the first 30 minutes; reduced hourly rate thereafter. No online referrals. Legal services are not free.
- **Lawyer Referral Service** – <https://austinlrs.com/> 512.472.8303 (Austin) or 866.303.8303. Private attorney referrals online or by telephone. Legal services are not free.
- **State Bar of Texas** www.texasbar.com - Online referrals to private attorneys, statewide searchable database of lawyers licensed to practice law in Texas; free publications on various legal topics. Legal services are not free.
- **Texas Legal Answers** - <https://texas.freelegalanswers.org/> Register and post legal questions online. Note: This service may not be able to answer all legal questions.

CHILD SUPPORT, MEDICAL SUPPORT, PATERNITY

- **Office of Attorney General of Texas-Child Support Division (OAG)** - 800.252.8014. Represents the interests of Texas in child support matters. Helps with: locating an absent parent, establishing paternity, establishing and enforcing child support and medical support, modification of child support. Apply online https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/parents/apply_services or in person at *CS Austin Central Office* - 512.441.6162; *CS Austin North Office* - 512.339.1135
- **Travis County Domestic Relations Office (DRO)** - www.co.travis.tx.us/dro. 512.894.5656. Travis Co. only. Enforcement of visitation and child support orders issued by Travis County courts.

ABUSE, NEGLECT, CPS

- **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS or "CPS")**
 - To report abuse or neglect: 800.252.5400, www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp
 - Status/info about your CPS case: Contact your CPS caseworker.
 - CPS questions and complaints: 800.720.7777, online www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/Questions_and_Complaints/default.asp
- **Office of Parental Representation** - 512.854.7305 - Travis Co. only - Advocacy for parents whose children have been removed by CPS. Must have open case and be financially eligible. www.traviscountytexas.gov/criminal-justice/parental-representation

NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS

- **Texas Access** – www.txaccess.org 866.292.4636, Mon-Fri 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Attorney staffed hotline, legal forms and help for noncustodial parents for visitation and custody issues.
- **Travis County Domestic Relations Office (DRO)** -Travis county only. www.co.travis.tx.us/dro. 512.894.5656. Enforcement of Travis County visitation and child support orders.

NONPARENT CAREGIVERS AND ADOPTION

- **Texas Attorney General-Child Support Division** <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/cs> 800.252.8014. Help with child support and custody if the child has lived with you full-time for more than 6 months.
- **Texas KinCare** Primer 2016 – Written guide for nonparent caregivers of minor children in English and Spanish. Free for review and download at <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/texas-kin-care-primer>
- **Adoption Resources** - Adopt Us Kids <https://www.adoptuskids.org/?r>= Information about adoption, sponsored by Texas Health and Human Services.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE. SEXUAL ASSAULT

NOTE - Clear your phone and/or web browser history after contacting these organizations.

Protective Orders- A Protective Order is an order signed by a judge to protect individuals and families from domestic abuse and violence. The order requires an abuser to follow certain rules or face serious legal consequences. These rules can include staying away from your family, payment of child support, and family visitation under supervision. Most protective orders are for a period of up to 2 years, but some are for a longer period depending on facts. *If you have experienced violence, apply right away. A delay can affect whether your application for a protective order can be accepted.*

- **Travis County Attorney's Office** - Apply in person Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. Spanish interpreters available. Ned Granger Bldg. 314 W.11th St. Suite 300. Required: Valid government issued ID; valid address of the person you need to be protection from.
- **Sexual Assault Resources**
 - LASSA -Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault 1.800.991.5153 www.legalaidforsurvivors.org/ Free legal help and information for people who have experienced sexual assault, including housing, consumer, family, employment and other legal matters.
 - RAINN - Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, <https://www.rainn.org/>
 - TAP-Texas Advocacy Project sexual assault legal hotline: 888.296.SAFE or 512.225.9290 in Austin.
- **Family Crisis Centers** - Help with protective orders, safety planning, temporary shelter, counseling and social services for victims of violence and/or sexual assault. No shelter stay required to access services. Nationwide referrals available 24/7 -National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800.799.SAFE (7233); 800.787.3224 (TTY). Local crisis centers include:
 - Travis - SafePlace - <https://www.safeaustin.org/get-help/> 512.267.SAFE (7233); 512.927.9616 TTY
 - Williamson - Hope Alliance - <https://www.hopealliancetxt.org/> 800.460.SAFE(7233)
 - Hays/Caldwell area- Hays Caldwell Women's Center - www.hcwc.org 512.396.HELP (4357) o 800.700.HCWC (4292).
 - Bastrop area - Bastrop Family Crisis Center- www.family-crisis-center.org. 512.303.7755 or 888.311.7755
 - o Apply for a Protective Order at the Bastrop Family Crisis Center 431 Old Austin Hwy, Bastrop, TX 78602
 - Burnet area - Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center- www.hlfcc.org. 800.664.3574
- **Texas Advocacy Project** - Attorney-staffed advice hotline for domestic violence and family law issues; www.texasadvocacyproject.org Family Violence: 512.476.5770; 800.374.HOPE. Family Law: 512.476.1866, or 800.777.FAIR.